



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending March 31, 2013

Issued weekly, April-November

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*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa) and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."*

**Very Poor Week for Field Work:** Pennsylvania had an average of 1 day suitable for field work. Winter weather persisted for much the state this week. Many respondents reported not one, but multiple days of snow during the week. The cooler than average temperatures and precipitation have limited the amount of field activities that can be completed. Field activities for the week included manure hauling, pruning fruit trees, and installing drainage passages into crop fields. Spring plowing is slowly getting underway and is 9% complete.

**PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending Apr 1, 2013**

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	0	72	28

**Crop Progress:** Tobacco beds are 25% planted, this is ahead of progress at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 4%.

**Crop Condition:** Winter wheat conditions are; 0% very poor, 4% poor, 23% fair, 58% good, and 15% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 21% very poor, 3% poor, 33% fair, 42% good and 1% excellent.

**Nationwide as of March 24, 2013:** Cooler-than-normal weather dominated much of the United States during the week, with temperatures averaging more than 15°F below normal on the northern Great Plains. Elsewhere, warm weather in the South allowed producers ample time to prepare fields and

plant spring crops. Precipitation was scattered throughout the country. Much of the Southeast accumulated rainfall totaling more than 200 percent of normal. Topsoil moisture levels in Florida improved during the week, as a cold front delivered much-needed, widespread precipitation. Portions of Florida received more than 4 inches of rain. Producers in the Panhandle planted peanuts and corn. Sugarcane harvest was winding down, with one mill officially finished for the 2012-2013 season. Unseasonably low evening temperatures left many fruit and vegetable growers worrying about frost damage. Despite increased rainfall, many fields were being irrigated. Winter vegetables were harvested in Miami-Dade County. Citrus growers continued to harvest Valencia oranges and complete general grove maintenance. Temperatures fluctuated across Texas during the week, as some areas experienced unseasonably warm weather and frost blanketed others. Moisture was scarce, with very few areas reporting any measurable rainfall. Dry conditions coupled with high winds continued to deplete soil moisture. Winter wheat in the Blacklands and East Texas, as well as irrigated fields in the Plains, continued to develop well; however, dryland small grains across the rest of the state were stressed by lack of moisture. Some fields in the Plains regions were treated for green bugs. Producers in the Plains and the Trans-Pecos continued to prepare for cotton planting, while corn planting in the Blacklands and East Texas was wrapping up. Planting of corn, sorghum, and soybeans continued in the Edwards Plateau and South Central Texas, with some producers starting to plant cotton.

## Weather Data For Week Ending March 31, 2013

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - March 31, 2013					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	51	26	36	-5	0.20	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Franklin_AG	54	17	35	-5	0.40	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Meadville-Port	52	28	36	-3	0.47	5	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Clarion	53	14	34	-8	0.32	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Springboro	53	13	34	-7	0.39	5	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Warren	54	21	35	-4	0.18	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	49	20	33	-3	0.24	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Oswayo	51	16	32	-6	0.64	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Kane	50	15	30	-6	0.31	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Laporte	49	22	33	-7	0.18	5	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Lock Haven	58	23	38	-4	0.17	1	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Coudersport_1SW	51	19	32	-6	0.18	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Renovo	56	24	38	-4	0.19	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Ridgway	53	19	34	-4	0.23	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Stevenson Dam	55	23	36	-2	0.28	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Towanda	54	24	37	-4	0.02	1	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Wellsboro	51	22	34	-3	0.22	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Williamsport	57	26	40	-3	0.18	1	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	53	20	35	-4	0.01	1	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	56	27	39	-3	0.12	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Susquehanna	53	25	36	0	0.09	1	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	54	22	36	-6	0.72	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
New Castle	54	23	36	-5	0.40	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Slippery Rock	59	20	37	-4	0.54	5	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	53	28	37	-6	0.42	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
DuBois	48	25	34	-6	0.17	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Lewistown	59	24	39	-5	0.41	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Middletown	57	28	41	-5	0.39	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Prince Gallitzi	52	16	34	-7	0.36	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Selingsgrove	57	25	39	-4	0.27	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
State College	53	27	38	-4	0.50	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	58	24	39	-5	0.18	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Lehighton	55	26	38	-6	0.12	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Matamoras	56	28	39	-3	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Mt_Pocono	50	26	35	-2	0.13	1	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	54	30	39	-5	0.87	5	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Indiana_PA	52	23	35	-8	0.57	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Myersdale	49	22	32	-10	0.66	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Chalk_Hill	54	22	34	-12	1.22	5	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh Intl	55	26	39	-5	0.47	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Connellsville	54	25	36	-10	0.57	4	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Waynesburg	57	24	38	-6	0.68	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	58	30	40	-6	0.47	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Everett	56	22	36	-7	0.63	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Hanover	57	25	39	-7	0.40	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Harrisburg_AP	58	28	41	-5	0.37	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
South Mountain	52	22	35	-8	0.68	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
York	58	24	39	-7	0.10	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	58	29	40	-4	0.33	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Hamburg	57	28	41	-2	0.18	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
West_Chester	59	22	39	-8	0.49	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	56	28	40	-5	0.27	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Neshaminy Falls	58	27	40	-5	0.72	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
New Holland	58	31	41	-4	0.59	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	59	33	43	-4	0.46	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia NE	58	31	42	-5	0.56	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Reading	58	29	42	-2	0.22	3	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Sellersville	57	25	37	-7	0.31	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0
Doylestown_AG	58	29	40	-5	0.32	2	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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## REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

### **ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney**

Adams County Committee reported at their meeting this week that some wheat and small grains look good, while some doesn't seem to be faring as well. The earlier planted looks to be better than later. Later was still pretty wet and low spots do not have very good stands. Hay is still dormant. Producers' topdressed small grains and hay seedings with fertilizers earlier in Feb/March. Soil moisture levels are adequate at this time.

Fruit growers are busy finishing up pruning apples and other fruits; will be pruning peaches, apricots, plums etc soon. On March 25th Adams County received 6-7" of snowfall and by the afternoon of March 26th you could see the ground again. Lots of melting this day and roadside gutters running full. Overall producers are busy getting ready for spring planting season which hopefully will soon be around the corner.

### **ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter**

Most fruit is still dormant.

### **CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little**

Conditions are still too cold and wet to do any

outdoor farming activities. I believe it snowed everyday this week.

### **CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker**

Winter conditions continued during the week.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr**

Still cool ground temperatures, minimal amount of field work being done. Ground is not frozen, but solid enough for hauling manure. Fruit is about normal to a week behind at this stage. No winter damage being noted. Pastures are greening up, but still not much growth.

### **LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill**

Winter grains and forages are well behind in growth and development this year.

### **MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust**

We had a total of 7 inches of snowfall this past week. No field work was completed directly on crops. Several area farmers began installing some ditching-drainage projects in crop fields. Area Amish farmers have been plowing with horses for several weeks and making rapid progress.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending March 31, 2013**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	9	0	na
Tobacco beds, planted	25	0	4

na = not available

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending March 31, 2013**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	4	23	58	15
Pasture	21	3	33	42	1

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